CHAPTER II

THE PASSING OF A PEOPLE

THERE are two roads out of Papeete, the one running east and north to Arue and Papenoo, the other west and south to Punaauia, Papeari and the peninsula of Taiarapu which is hung on to the main island by a thread. They do not go right round the island and meet, because there are rivers which have not been bridged and often cannot be forded, but the first takes us to a great and famous valley up which I propose in imagination to walk, to return by yet another which strikes the other road. In your mind's eye, then, swing your shoulders and come with me out of the little town on the road east.

It is a famous road and we shall not get far. "A